

FY 2021 Appropriations - Surface Transportation Board

Final FY 2020 P.L. 116-94 12/20/2019	Administration's FY 2021 Budget 2/10/2020	U.S. House of Representatives FY 2021 H.R. 7616, H. Rpt. 116-452 7/14/2020	U.S. Senate FY 2021 Appropriations Committee Draft 11/19/2020	Final FY 2021 P.L. 116-260 12/27/2020
\$37.1 Million Appropriation \$1.25 Million Off-Setting Collections	\$37.5 Million Appropriation \$1.25 Million Off-Setting Collections	\$37.5 Million Appropriation \$ 1.25 Million Off-Setting Collections	\$37.5 Million Appropriation \$ 1.25 Million Off-Setting Collections	\$37.5 Million Appropriation \$ 1.25 Million Off-Setting Collections
<p>Report Language:</p> <p>Regulatory Proceedings—While the STB has made progress in implementing the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015, the Committee remains concerned about a number of pending regulatory proceedings that would reform existing regulations without all five board members. The Committee continues to encourage the administration to nominate the full complement of board members to the STB as soon as possible, and encourages the STB to provide a timely and decisive regulatory process.</p> <p>Movement of Commerce—The Committee is aware of the STB requesting information from Class I freight railroads regarding concerns of services issues impacting shippers and receivers of certain commerce. The Committee encourages the STB to continue to work with railroads, shippers, and receivers to fully understand the scope of the issue and fully exercise its authority in order to effectively address these matters.</p> <p>Cost-Benefit Analysis—The Committee supports the use of cost-benefit in the rulemaking process for significant regulatory actions as required by current law and recognizes that independent regulatory agencies are generally exempt from the Federal requirements to undergo such analysis. However, the Committee is concerned that the STB may not have adequate staffing or expertise to undergo such an extensive assessment for all of its rulemaking proceedings and directs the board to set a threshold for determining which rulemakings should require a cost-benefit analysis. The Board should include requests for additional resources to undertake such assessments in its future budget requests.</p>		<p>Report Language:</p> <p><i>Cost-benefit analysis.</i>—In March 2019, a petition was filed with the STB to institute a rulemaking to adopt procedural rules that would require a cost-benefit analysis in certain future STB rulemaking proceedings. In response, the STB reviewed the practices at other agencies, including independent agencies that, like the STB, are not statutorily required to have cost-benefit analysis procedural rules. In November 2019, the STB issued a solicitation of information to request comments from stakeholders on whether and how particular cost-benefit analysis approaches might be more formally integrated into the STB's rulemaking process. The Committee understands that there is significant interest in this matter.</p> <p>The Committee encourages the STB to thoroughly review and consider all comments received in response to the solicitation of information. If the STB decides to adopt a cost-benefit analysis procedure for significant rulemakings, then the Committee encourages the STB to request additional resources, as necessary, to ensure the STB has the staffing and expertise to undertake such cost-benefit analyses.</p>	<p>Report Language:</p> <p><i>Regulatory Proceedings.</i>—There remain a number of pending regulatory proceedings that would reform existing regulations at the STB. The Committee continues to encourage the STB to provide a timely and decisive regulatory process and encourages the administration to nominate the full complement of board members to the STB as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Report Language:</p> <p><i>Regulatory proceedings.</i> -The agreement encourages the STB to provide a timely and decisive regulatory process, applauds the recent actions to adopt the full complement of board members to the STB, and encourages the administration to make nominations as soon as possible after a member's term expires.</p>

FRCA advocated for the FY 2021 & FY 2020 appropriated funding levels and the corresponding report language noted above. A Senate vote did not occur on its draft FY 2021 measure; used as negotiating tool with the House to reach final bill.